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KLAN HAMPERS WAR EFFORT IN DETROIT

KKK Seeks to Take Over Unions in Auto Plants;
Disrupts Workers, Slows Down Production and
Fights Sale of Defense Bonds

The Hour has received word from Detroit that the Ku Klux Klan has launched a vigorous drive to capture executive positions in the United Automobile Workers union and to interfere with production in auto plants now working on war orders. The Klansmen are concentrating their fifth column offensive in the Packard, Hudson, Ford, Briggs, Chrysler and Motor Products plants.

In their effort to take over the union and to sabotage production, the hooded traitors are using various devices. They are spreading virulent anti-Semitic and anti-Negro propaganda to confuse and disrupt the workers. They provoke slowdowns and even wildcat sitdown strikes in the factories. They fight every union project aimed at supporting the U. S. war effort.

Packard Situation

The situation is particularly serious at the Packard Plant, which today is manufacturing marine and aircraft motors for the United States and British Governments. The Klan is conducting an intense recruiting campaign in the Packard Local, which has a membership of 15,000 defense workers. Klansmen are strenuously combatting the Program For Victory Over Fascism which has been adopted by the Packard workers, and are furtively obstructing the Local's sale of U. S. Defense Bonds and its drive to "Buy a UAW Bomber."

Key Klansman in the Packard Plant is a man by the name of Frank Buehrle. His background is shrouded in some mystery. His close associates are said to include former members of the Black Legion, the stormtroop band which terrorized Michigan with a series of brutal murders. Regarding his enemies, Buehrle frequently boasts, "I'm going to lay them on a slab." Buehrle is taking orders from such KKK bigwigs as Harvey Hanson, Klan general and chief organizer in the Michigan area. In order to supervise more effectively the Klan's work at Packard, Hanson has recently taken up residence near this factory.

(MORE)

Nazi Connections

The Klan in Detroit is closely cooperating with the National Workers League, which sprang up under the tutelage of Nazi agents, and with other Hitlerite groups. (For further information of the Klan's ties with agencies of the Third Reich, see The Hour for August 24, 1940.) There can be little doubt that the Klan's efforts to interfere with U.S. war production are the result of careful planning in Berlin.

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ENIGMA OF UNA FUNDS

On December 30, 1941, The Hour reported that the funds of the Ukrainian National Association had been frozen by government authorities. The funds amount to approximately \$6,000,000. Since the executive board of the Association is dominated by Nazi-Ukrainians, there was obviously good reason for freezing this money.

We are now informed that an attempt is being made to unfreeze the UNA funds. The question is: by whom and why?

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DISRUPTIVE PROPAGANDA OF LAWRENCE DENNIS

On January 10 The Hour reported that U. S. fifth columnists, seeking to hamper the war effort of this country, were diligently striving "to create doubts and suspicions concerning the sincerity of the nations allied with the United States, and to sabotage cooperation between this country and the other anti-fascist powers." A graphic illustration of this disruptive technique occurs in the January 29 issue of The Weekly Foreign Letter, a newsletter published by Lawrence Dennis, the pseudo-intellectual theoretician of the U. S. Fifth Column. In this issue, Dennis asserts that the Soviet Union is participating in the war of the Allied Nations against the fascist powers, only in order to further her interests at the expense of America and Britain. He writes:

"Stalin ... sees that America and Britain are committed to waging his war or the war necessary for the triumph of communist world revolution. He, not Roosevelt or Churchill, has a social philosophy and system for the situation which such a war is bound to create. His present strategy, therefore, is to let Roosevelt and Churchill fight his war all over the world, realizing that his main task is to keep the communist international torch burning and limit Russia's effort to national defense until the red armies are able to occupy the ruins of western Europe."

By spreading such propaganda Dennis is obviously working to arouse fears and suspicions about the Soviet Union, and thus to create a division between that powerful country and her allies, the United

States and Great Britain. Such a split would naturally result in a great strengthening of Hitler's cause, for which Dennis has frequently expressed a great admiration.

Dennis and "American Nazism"

Dennis looks to the day when the prophecy contained in his book The Coming American Fascism will be realized. He openly expresses the belief, shared in somewhat more sanctimonious language by Father Charles E. Coughlin (see The Hour for September 13, 1941), that the present war is bringing fascism to the United States. "When Nazism gives way to Communism in Europe," he observes in the latest issue of The Weekly Foreign Letter, "will we want to go on fighting Communism? Obviously not. Will we go Communist? The author thinks not. In a fit of war weariness, we shall react from international Communism to a brand of national socialism of our own making, already emerging in its institutional pattern." In short, says Dennis, the ultimate result of our fighting in this war will be American Nazism.

In his most recent book, The Dynamics of War and Revolution, Dennis explains he does not write for "those who will be stamped into war like cattle into a corral"; he writes for "all the elite." Of course these so-called elite are -- in plainer language -- the fascists. Hitler applies the same term to his most trusted thugs, the Schutzstaffel, the black-shirted Elite Guard of the Nazis. One of the ways in which Dennis sought to reach "elite" readers in the United States was by writing for Today's Challenge, Nazi propaganda magazine edited by the German agent, Dr. Friedrich Auhagen.

Dennis' "War Effort"

Before the entry of the United States into the war, Dennis declared in The Dynamics of War and Revolution:

"As soon as we enter the war I shall try to join up in any capacity in which I may be found useful. ... I shall be delighted to serve my country with its war propaganda. I am just as ready to lie as to kill for my country."

Lawrence Dennis has not carried out his promise to join up; and that, no doubt, is just as well for the U. S. armed forces. The present contents of his Foreign Letter, however, indicate that he is "ready to lie" -- but not for his country.

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JAPANESE PROPAGANDA AND FATHER COUGHLIN

A pertinent comment on Axis efforts to disunite the American people by fomenting racial antagonisms is contained in the January 30 issue of *Doho*, a pro-democratic Japanese-American newspaper edited in Los Angeles, California, by Shuji Fujii. In an article discussing war-time problems of Americans of Japanese descent, Mr. Fujii remarks;

"The present war, provoked without rhyme or reason by militarist Japan, has materially changed the position of all racial groups to a great extent. Especially is this true of the Japanese [in the United States], who are now 'enemy aliens,' as well as of their sons and daughters.

"The pro-Japanese line of propaganda now is to raise the American Japanese question along racial differences, racial persecution, etc. The Japanese government claims that this is a racial war between the Asiatics and whites, a war of 'liberation of the yellow races from white domination.'" (Italics Fujii's)

Mr. Fujii's words shed significant light upon the objectives of those U. S. fifth columnists who are proclaiming that the war is a struggle between the "yellow and white races." Perhaps the most active promoter of this legend is Father Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Michigan. The latest issue of the pro-Nazi priest's publication, *Social Justice*, has this headline emblazoned across its front page: "YELLOW-WHITE WAR MAY BE NEXT." The article to which the headline refers contains such assertions as these:

"One of the worst features of the World War is that it is possible for it to develop into a racial war -- the yellow race against the white race. ...

"Today 300-million Orientals -- believe it or not -- are beginning to chant Britain's requiem in the words 'Asia for the Asiatics.'"

Once again, the Propaganda Ministries of Berlin, Rome and Tokyo are indebted to the priest of Royal Oak.

NOTE

During the months of February and March, *The Hour* will be issued at fortnightly instead of weekly intervals.
